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PATENT

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116 - EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE - EXAMINING GROUP 3679

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No.: 10/058,952 Confirmation No.: 4630
Applicant(s): Peter Holemans et al.
Filed: January 28, 2002
Art Unit: 3679
Examiner: Gregory John Binda
Title: DAMAGE TOLERANT SHAFT
AND ASSOCIATED FABRICATION METHOD

Docket No.: 038190/239691
Customer No.: 00826

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL ACTION
PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.116**

Sir:

This Amendment is submitted in response to the final Official Action dated September 22, 2004. No new matter or issues are raised by this Amendment. Because the application is now in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. Alternatively, Applicant respectfully requests entry of this Amendment for purposes of narrowing the issues upon appeal.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims beginning on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this paper.